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WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 21, 1904.***OUTDOOR EXHIBIT OF MEDICINAL PLANTS MADE BY THE BUREAU
OF PLANT INDUSTRY AT ST. LOUIS.**

One of the features at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of interest to the student of medicine and pharmacy is the outdoor exhibit of the office of Drug and Medicinal Plant Investigations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, made under the direction of Rodney H. True, Physiologist in charge.

This exhibit comprises growing specimens of various medicinal plants, some of them native species which are gradually becoming scarcer and therefore more valuable, some simply ordinary weeds that can be picked up on almost any farm, for which, however, there is considerable demand. A few foreign drug plants, of which we are now importing large quantities and which could be cultivated in this country as well as abroad, are also introduced.

The area devoted to medicinal plants consists of a strip of land 180 feet long by 40 feet wide. This is laid off in 47 plats, each measuring about 13 feet in length by 7 feet in width, with walks between the beds affording easy access to the plats for purposes of closer scrutiny and examination. The labels give the common and scientific names of the plants, the parts employed in medicine, and their properties.

The plants are arranged in their natural sequence according to the now generally accepted Engler and Prantl system. Thus, the grass family occupies the first position in the field and includes in this exhibit the most valuable member and one of the most worthless, from the farmer's standpoint; namely, corn and couch grass, the corn starch and silk furnished by the former being used in medicine, and the running rootstock of the latter, a source of much trouble to the farmer, also possessing medicinal properties.

Golden seal, a native plant for the root of which a great demand exists and which brings a good price, will also be found here, as well as another plant which has caused a flurry in the market on account of short supply, namely, the Cascara sagrada tree, the bark of which is employed medicinally.

Yellow dock, pokeweed, mustard, jimson weed, burdock, and dandelion, well known as weeds in one part of the country or another, are here growing in a state of cultivation. Aconite, belladonna, henbane, and digitalis, all poisonous narcotic herbs, now occurring principally in Europe and imported into this country in large quantities, are also shown.

The mint family, the members of which furnish volatile oils, is well represented by such fragrant herbs as lavender, pennyroyal, sage, summer savory, thyme, peppermint, and spearmint.

The opium poppy, licorice, castor-oil plant, hops, valerian, tansy, wormseed, wormwood, and many other plants more or less important as drugs, are grown in this garden.

The different parts of these plants, prepared as they are found in the drug trade, are shown in the indoor exhibit of the Bureau of Plant Industry, as are also some of the active principles obtained from them.

